

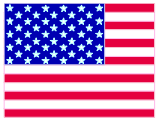
Arizona Association for Pupil Transportation

Bus Stop News

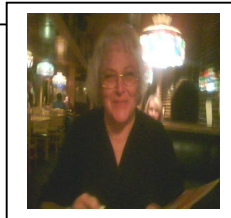
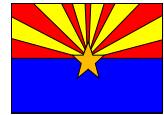
1949 – 2007



December 07



From the Desk of Evelyn King
A.A.P.T. President



Hello Again,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new and returning board members to the board. The new members are David Sekavayma from Hopi Jr/Sr High, Peter Yazzie from Ganado, Norm Ward from Cottonwood/Oakcreek, David Rosenberg from Chandler Unified, Gabe Cachora from Indian Oasis Baboquivari, Jaime Lara from Eloy Elementary, Hilma Gustafson from Glendale Elementary, and Sarah Pederson from Prescott Unified. I am looking forward to working with all of you. Welcome aboard see you in November. What it means to be a board member, work and lot's of it, learning, dedication to the job at hand, but it is not all work we have fun along the way also.

What a great conference in Prescott, Arizona. I would like to thank everyone who attended and worked on this year's conference. A big thank you goes out to Sarah Pederson for her hard work in organizing everything Great Job Sarah! I can tell you that your board members will be hard at work planning and organizing the 2008 conference. I would like to congratulate all of the winners of this year's awards. School Transportation of the Year went to Mr. Christopher Torres. Q'staint Special Needs driver went to Ms. Arleen Dhawan, and Driver of the year went to Mr. Julian Thomas. I have read all the comment sheets and have made a list of all the things you would like to see changed and I will be taking them with me to the board at the November 10th meeting. You had a lot of good ideas like go back to classes on Saturday and Sunday, more class time, do awards at the dinner on Saturday night, have classes on morale, anger management, and more classes that drivers use in driving the bus. I think all of these are doable so look for changes along those lines. Everyone has my e-mail address so let me hear more of your ideas and what you would like to see happen, or you can call me at 520-253-0790. Ok, on to the road-eo. We will be in Phoenix, at the Arizona State Fairgrounds. The Nationals will be in Canada so if you win here and plan on going to Canada you will need to get your pass port, and you may want to get that soon. I am looking forward to another great year. I'm hoping to see everyone at the road-eo in March so get your registrations in early and look for some new and exciting things in the coming year. Remember the Holidays are fast approaching and people hurrying here and there, drive safe and carefully not only in your School Bus but in your vehicle also.

My Dad told me that "Your word is your most valuable asset." You have another asset that is your day to day actions, you are judged on your actions and that is a good thing.

Have a great
Holiday season

Evelyn King
A.A.P.T. President

The Arizona Association for Pupil Transportation is proud to announce and recognize the following winners in the AAPT annual awards.

School Transportation Person of the Year

This year the award went to Christopher (Pete) Torres from Indian Oasis-Baboquivari Unified School District Transportation Department. Pete's Transportation career started in 1974 one year after completing a year of Automotive Mechanic Training. Pete was hired by the Rock Boy School District as a mechanic and bus driver in the state of Montana. He moved to Arizona in 2004. He was hired on with Indian Oasis in September 2004 as a mechanic, and was state certified for school bus driving in October 2004. He has now upgraded to Head Mechanic. Mr. Torres is very knowledgeable in the repairs and upkeep of school buses as well as other vehicles. He has been a great asset to the department and the drivers in maintenance of their buses. His willingness to help where ever help is needed is outstanding, despite his having to travel 60 miles to work each day, he is there daily. You might say his whole career has been centered on the school transportation industry and school buses.



Q'Straint Special Needs Driver of the Year

This year the award went to Arleen Dhawn from Indian Oasis-Baboquivari Unified School District Transportation Department. Arleen has been a bus Driver for twenty four years. She has been driving special needs for the Past six years. She has proven to be very dependable and understanding With the special needs students that she transports. She has very good Communication between the school and the parents. Arleen has a very Good knowledge of her student's conditions and abilities. Ms. Dhawn keeps very good records of what goes on in her bus and the operation of her bus. She is capable of gathering information on students at their I.E.P. if the director is unable to attend. Arleen is well appreciated by all the parents of the special students she transports.



School Bus Driver of the Year

This year the award went to Julian Thomas from Indian Oasis-Baboquivari Unified School District Transportation Department. Mr. Thomas has been Driving a bus for thirty fours years. He has a great respect for the students That he transports, and the parents have a great respect for him as well. Last year he was awarded a plague for driving one million accident free Miles. Mr. Thomas is very active in the department's activities and always Willing to do his part in any functions. He very seldom misses a day of Work and he is always on time.



Officers:

Past President



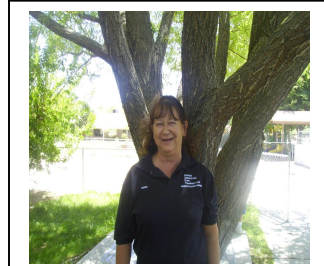
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Bee Line Transportation
WK 602-253-8821

President





Evelyn King
Willcox Unified
WK 520-253-0790

President Elect



Donna Keylon
Agua Fria Unified
WK 623-932-9672

Executive Board Members

REGION ONE	REGION TWO	REGION THREE
<p>Catherine James Chinle Unified WK 928-674-9714</p> <p>Nancy Edwards Kingman Academy WK 928-692-5603</p> <p>Peter Yazzie Ganado WK 928-755-1205</p> <p>David Sekavayma Hopi Jr/Sr High WK 928-738-5682 Cell 928-797-5337</p> 	<p>Cathy Erwin Creighton School District #14 WK 602-381-6055 Cell 623-826-4987</p> <p>Hilma Gustafson Glendale Elementary WK 623-866-6263 Cell 602-686-3956</p> <p>Sarah Pederson Prescott Unified WK 920-717-3229 Cell 928-420-1993</p> <p>Armando Cuellar Madison Elementary WK 602-664-7701 Cell 602-319-9016</p> <p>Norman Ward Cottonwood/Oakcreek WK 928-634-9679</p> <p>David Rosenberg Chandler Unified WK 480-812-7276</p>	<p>Ervin Lopez O.I.E.P Santa Rosa Ranch WK 520-383-2359</p> <p>Robyn Nelson Tucson Unified WK 520-383-6732</p> <p>Gabe Cachora Indian Oasis - Baboquivari WK 520-383-6732 Cell 520-419-7510</p> <p>Jaime Lara Eloy Elementary School Dist #11 WK 520-466-2106</p> 

It Takes a Village to Protect Them

By, Cathy Erwin

This year Prescott Unified High School District co-hosted with the AAPT the conference which had in attendance approximately 275 persons representing 52 school districts. The 2 days of activity included state awards, board elections and business, general assemblies and workshops. This year's conference targeted "Homeland Security" issues with training on School Bus Watch and a live demonstration of a hostage rescue complete with a Sheriff's Swat Team.

On Saturday, October 13, 2007 the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office 15 person Swat Team led by team leader Sgt. Bill Suttle and assistant team leaders Deputy Rich Martin and Sgt. Nate Auvenshine, demonstrated what it would take in a last ditch effort to gain control of a school bus which along with 2 students and a bus driver were taken hostage. Deputy Martin and Sgt. Auvenshine gave a brief explanation to the approximately 275 members in attendance prior to the presentation as to what they were about to view.

Scenario:

A 40 foot bus was under siege by a hostage taker with 2 students on board along with the bus driver. The only description of the hostage taker was that he was wearing a red flannel shirt.

The SWAT team who were looking for a small window of opportunity to gain entrance and control of the bus, ran quickly to position themselves parallel to the bus length in two man ladder stances, activated a loud noise flash diversionary device to redirect the hostage takers attention momentarily and gain entry of the bus. This all happened in a matter of seconds. The top man on the two man ladder busted the windows and gained entry and control with weapons drawn and fired when needed.

The SWAT Team members were dressed in Nomex flight suits (fire retardant), body armor, ballistic helmets, load bearing vest (LBV), Nomex gloves and eye protection. The team was successful in their ability to gain entry, quickly search and detain the terrorist. In treating this as a real situation the team detained and searched all parties that were removed from the bus. This practice is standard and follows cautioning on the side of safety. Once the threat is removed and the suspect is identified and either apprehended and/or neutralized the victims are subsequently released.

After the demonstration there was a question and answer period afforded the membership by Deputy Rich Martin and Deputy J.T. Smith. This debriefing took place in the schools auditorium and was very enlightening.

The Yavapai County Sheriff's Office Swat Team has practiced drills in the past thanks to the Humbolt School District Transportation Department located in Prescott Valley, Arizona. This was their first real demonstration and with the assistance of Eagles Aerie Schools Transportation Supervisor, Steve Laudenslager II who provided a school bus that could sustain minor damage, a successful demonstration was performed.

While a picture is worth a thousand words, a live demonstration to those persons that this directly impacts (bus drivers) is worth a million. It also heightens awareness and affords all those in attendance a reality check to what could happen. Preparedness is the difference between survival and not. While it takes a village to raise a child it also takes a village to protect them.

Thank You

Special thanks go out to Sarah Pederson and the Prescott Unified School District as they put on a wonderful Conference in Prescott October 13-14 2007. There was lot's of good food and the entertainment and classes were awesome. Everyone had a great time! So if you missed this year's conference, you must make plans to attend the next one, which will be held the second weekend of October 2008.

We would like to thank everyone who helped make this year's conference a success:

- **Yavapai County Sheriffs Office SWAT Team**
- **D.P.S. for all their assistance**
- **The many Instructors who came to teach the classes.**
- **The vendors who came to sell products and support us in our endeavor to promote school bus safety.**
- **The many sponsors who donated items for the door prizes and raffles.**
- **Last, but not least, the A.A.P.T. board members who have been planning the events and getting everything ready for the conference.**

 <p>Southwest Diesel & Electrical Corporation</p> <p>Bill Jochum Product Support</p> <p>(602) 269-2471 1-800-658-5806 CELL (602) 810-2615 FAX (602) 233-1017 www.swdiesel.com bill.jochum@swdiesel.com</p> <p>1830 North 27th Avenue • Phoenix • Arizona • 85010</p>	 <p>ASH AUTO SAFETY HOUSE</p> <p>PHOENIX • TUCSON • HOLBROOK • LAS VEGAS</p>	 <p>CANYON STATE BUS SALES</p> <p>602-230-1515 877-230-1515</p> <p>3</p>
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AAPT ROAD-EO 2008

There has been a change of location for the Bus Road-eo. It will be held in Phoenix at the Arizona State Fairgrounds on March 8th, 2008. Be sure to sign up early, applications can be found at www.azpupiltransportation.org



**Don't forget your passport
The International Road-eo will be held in Calgary Alberta, Canada**

FYI

It was agreed at the AZ School Bus Advisory Council Meeting on Friday October 26, 2007 that: DPS would agree to approving a blanket approval that all new buses that are being delivered to AZ as of 10/26/07 would not need to have the extra battery requirement.



If you or someone you know likes to write, please let us in on the secret. We are looking for people to donate articles and poems for the newsletters. Got an idea, project or need? Let your fellow board members come to the rescue with insights, safety issues etc. We are waiting to hear from you. Call 602-686-3956 write 3135 S. 48th Street Suite 104 Box 57, Tempe, Arizona 85282 or e-mail hjgustafson@cox.net